

**THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP
AD HOC TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2015
MINUTES**

**THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTIES OF HARRIS & MONTGOMERY §**

The Ad Hoc Transportation Committee of The Woodlands Township Board of Directors met in regular session, open to the public, on October 14, 2015, posted to begin at 2:00 p.m. The committee meeting was held in a meeting room at the office of The Woodlands Township Town Hall, 2801 Technology Forest Boulevard, The Woodlands, Texas, within the boundaries of The Woodlands Township.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Jeff Long, Mike Bass and Bruce Tough

STAFF/ADVISORS: Don Norrell, President/General Manager; John Powers, Assistant General Manager for Community Services; Monique Sharp, Assistant General Manager for Finance and Administration; Robin Cross, Township Attorney; Karen Dempsey, Assistant to the President; Nick Wolda, President of the CVB; and Chris LaRue, Transit Program Manager

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

1. Call to Order;

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. As there was a quorum of members present, the committee proceeded to conduct business regarding the following matters:

2. Receive, consider and act upon adoption of the meeting agenda;

MOTION: Motion by Director Long to adopt the agenda; second by Chairman Bass;

VOTE: **Ayes:** Jeff Long
 Mike Bass
 Bruce Tough
 Nays: None
 Abstentions: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously (3-0).

3. **Public comment; None**

4. **Receive, consider and act upon the consent Agenda;**

MOTION: Motion by Director Long to approve the Consent Agenda, second by Director Tough

VOTE: **Ayes:** Mike Bass
 Jeff Long
 Bruce Tough
 Nays: None
 Abstentions: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously (3-0).

5. **Receive, consider and act upon outside committee and meeting updates;**

- Conroe/The Woodlands Urbanized Area (UZA) – none
- Chamber Mobility Committee – none
- Bicycle Advisory Task Force – Committee will have three meetings, the first one will be next week. John Powers discussed who was on the Committee; a representative from the each of the Villages, appointed to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Council; a representative from The Woodlands Development Company, Woodlands Road Utility District, one person from the coalition, one person from the Bicycle Advisory Task Force, an avid pedestrian walker (Chris Nunes is familiar with that person), and Chris LaRue. Also, they are waiting for confirmation from two other people from the County. Chairman Bass inquired about a timeline from Jones and Carter.
- Meals on Wheels Montgomery County Senior Rides - Ridership / statistics update and fleet management update. Two buses were out of service. The bus that was involved in the accident will be returning on October 23rd. They are also down two bus drivers. Discussion was made on their funding source and the cost of rides.
- Interfaith – Statistics update on the number of rides; combination of volunteers and taxi's. Questions from Committee Member Long about potential to coordinate with Senior Rides. Miss Herndon of Interfaith indicated they were looking to find ways to work together. Interfaith does not receive 5310 funding.
- Woodlands Express Park & Ride update Ridership and operations statistics update. Chris LaRue discussed improvement in average riders per day and incident regarding trash thrown at bus resulting in major windshield damage. Committee Chairman requested if

some bus runs could be consolidated, and Chris LaRue stated that they were looking into that.

- Waterway Trolley Update - – Chris LaRue discussed the improved ridership on the Town Center Trolley Service over the same period last year by 3,000+ Discussion was made on why the increase; Chris LaRue stated the people have recognized the service from the holiday season last year, advertising, and the congestion around the Town Center.
- Woodlands Road Utility District (RUD) – no discussion.
- Harris County Precinct 4 Roadway Improvements update – Chairman Bass discussed improvement projects proposed for north Harris County by Commissioner Cagle, the potential construction costs, and their impacts. The Gosling bridge expansion will depend on the Harris County Bond. There will be some funding from the RUD.

6. Receive, consider and act upon a presentation by H-GAC regarding the Transportation Improvement Planning (TIP) process;

H-GAC presented information about the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) process and methods of selecting and funding qualifying projects. Committee members asked questions about projects in Montgomery County and whether there was more that could be done to get MC projects included in future TIP calls for projects. The Committee requested a copy of the PowerPoint presentation.

MOTION: No action was taken.

7. Receive, consider and act upon a discussion of a future recommendation to the Township Board of Directors regarding potential future transit initiatives and the potential for a future transit hub; (This items was discussed fourth)

MOTION: This item has been deferred to a later meeting.

8. Receive, consider and act upon consideration of making a recommendation to the Township Board of Directors regarding modification of the existing Waterway Trolley route to provide improved service without incurring additional costs; (This item was discussed second)

A report was given to the Committee, that there would be six new trolleys by the end of November. Two trolleys are used in route daily, and one is a backup. Three old ones would be used for backup and/or auctioned off. Discussion was made on Waterway Trolley routes; focus on stops in front of hotels and shops, to include Hughes Landing. It was requested that these suggestions be taken to the Development Company, obtain their feedback and input, and then report back to The Committee at the November meeting.

MOTION: No action was taken.

9. **Receive, consider and act upon a briefing regarding the 2015-2016 Holiday Shuttle Express;** (This item was discussed first)

Committee members discussed the 2015-2016 Holiday Shuttle service and offered suggestions regarding route planning and funding including the use of FTA funding. Discussion was also made to seek cost-sharing from parties benefiting from the service such as The Woodlands Mall and Market Street.

MOTION: Motion made by Chairman Bass to recommend going forward with the route changes as suggested and allocates FTA funding up to 50%. The difference will come from the Transportation 2015 budget, second by Director Tough. Committee agreed to forward this to The Township Board of Directors, for their next meeting on October 28th.

VOTE: **Ayes:** Mike Bass
 Jeff Long
 Bruce Tough

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously (3-0).

10. **Receive, consider and act upon the Local Initiatives Program (LIP) funding for transportation projects;** (This items was discussed third)

MOTION: Motion made by Director Long and second by Director Tough, to recommend to The Township Board of Directors, that potential Local Initiative Program (LIP) funding available to Montgomery County be approved for use by the Conroe-The Woodlands UZA for projects by Senior Rides, the City of Conroe, and The Woodlands Township.

VOTE: **Ayes:** Mike Bass
 Jeff Long
 Bruce Tough

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously (3-0).

11. The Committee recessed to Executive Session at 3:54 p.m., with counsel, staff and/or affected third parties to discuss matters relating to real property, deliberation of economic development negotiations, discuss personnel matters, consult with The Woodlands Township attorney, discuss funding alternatives and potential agreements with other local, state or federal agencies;

12. The Committee reconvened in public session at 4:35 p.m.;

13. Receive, consider and act upon recommendations to the Township Board regarding Town Center transportation matters;

MOTION: No action was taken.

14. Consideration of items to be placed on the agenda for the next committee meeting;

None

15. Adjournment: 4:36 p.m.